(c) the status of the matter at present?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Minimum wages payable to daily wager

1811. DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have raised the minimum wage payable to a daily wager by 32 per cent to Rs. 66/- per day;

(b) if so, how far the Consumer Price Index has risen since the minimum wage was fixed last; and

(c) the extent to which the increased cost of living has been neutralized thereby?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the decision taken at tripartite fora of Central Advisory Board constituted under section 8 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in its meeting held on 27th June, 2002, the Government set up a Working Group to go into the codification of the concept of Minimum Wages, Listing out Guidelines based on Critical Evaluation of various parameters and also to study the problems in implementation of minimum wages. It has recommended the norms in terms of 3 consumption units and per capita requirement of food, clothing, fuel, lighting and miscellaneous items including children's education, medical requirement etc. as determined by the results of quinquennial Consumer Expenditure Survey for Rural Areas conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Based on these norms the Working Group worked out afresh the national minimum wage at Rs. 66/- per day to be made applicable to unskilled labour in respect of each employment. No decision has yet been taken by the Government regarding acceptance of the report of the Working Group.

The national minimum wage of Rs. 66/- per day as worked at by the Working Group would be higher by 32 per cent from the present level of Rs. 50/- per day revised with effect from 01.09.2002. In comparison to this, the Consumer Price Index number for Industrial Workers

(Base 1982=100) increased by 3.5 per cent only to 501 (July, 2003) from 484 (August, 2002).

Lockout/retrenchment in private sector

†1812. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lockout and retrenchment in private sector are going on a large scale now-a-days;

(b) if so, the number of persons rendered jobless during the last five years; and

(c) the scheme formulated by Government for retraining and redeployment of these jobless persons?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The number of persons affected due to lockout and retrenchment, during 1998-2002 in the private sector, as provided by the Labour Bureau, is given (*See* below).

(c) A scheme for "Counseling, Retraining and Redeployment of rationalized workers of Central Public Sector Enterprises" was introduced in 2001-2002, to enable the rationalized employees of the Central Public Sector Enterprises to avail opportunities of self-employment.

Statement

Number of workers affected due to lockout/retrenchment in the private sector

Year	Lockouts		Retrenchment	
	Number	Workers Involved	Number of Units	Workers Involved
1998	283	110560	115	1698
1999	309	160961	128	1191
2000	305	160634	102	1815
2001	264	135551	115	2184
2002	269	162563	78	3040

Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.